

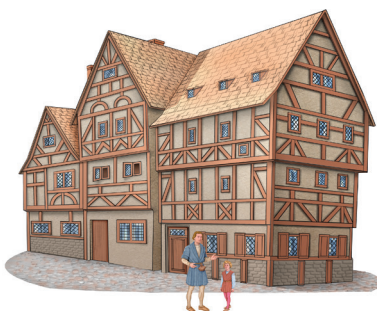
Reformation—Luther as a Child

Figures to use in building scenes: 1 Baby Martin 2 Luther's Father 3 Luther's Mother 4 Baptismal Font
 5 Four-Year-Old Martin 6 Street Scene 7 Cotta House 8 Choirboys 9 Martin Singing 10 Mrs. Cotta

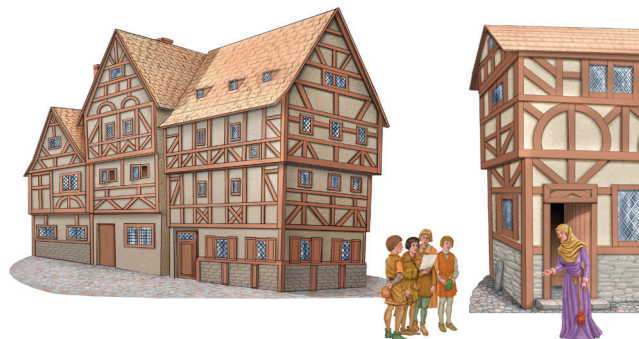
Screen shots are provided to help with overall concept, but are not always complete representations of the entire scene.



Scene 1



Scene 2



Scene 3

Scene 1

Over five hundred years ago, in 1483, a little boy (place Baby Martin [1], on left center of the background) **was born in the village of Eisleben** (ICE-lee-ben), **Saxony. Today, we know it as Germany. The baby's father was Hans Luther** (place Luther's Father [2] to right of baby), **and his mother's name was Margaret Luther** (place Luther's Mother [3] to left of baby). **When the baby was just one day old, his father, Hans, took him to the church of St. Peter's.** (Place baby in father's arms.) **At the church** (place Baptismal Font [4] to right of Father and Baby Martin), **Martin was baptized. It was a special day in the Church Year, commemorating St. Martin of Tours, so Hans and Margaret named their baby Martin.** (Remove Baptismal Font.)

Martin Luther's parents had very little money and they both worked hard to take care of their family. Martin's mother, Margaret, took care of the children, cooked, baked, and raised food in a garden. She often had to go out to gather wood in the forest in order to cook their food and keep the house warm in the wintertime. With seven other children in the family, Martin would have to help with many chores. (Clear screen for the next scene.)

Scene 2

(Place Street Scene [6].) **When Martin was less than a year old, his family moved to Mansfield, another little town in Germany, where his father worked in the copper mines. Soon, Hans would manage a few of the copper mines. This provided the family with more money so that his children could go to school. Soon after Martin's fourth birthday** (place Four-Year-Old Martin [5] on right center), **Martin started going to school. Schools were very strict, and Martin had to work very hard. He also had to walk to school every day. Because he was so young, he sometimes had trouble keeping up with the older children on the walk. Sometimes, Martin's father** (place Father [2] to left of Martin) **carried him on his back to school. Sometimes, a big neighbor boy carried Martin. Young Martin studied hard, learning to read, write, and know other languages, such as Latin.** (Remove Father [2]. Keep remaining images and continue to read the next scene.)

Scene 3

Martin was a bright boy and eager to learn in order to please his father. His father wanted him to become a lawyer. After Martin finished grade school in Mansfield (remove Four-Year-Old Martin [5] and place Martin Singing [9]), **his father sent him to high school in another town called Eisenach. It must have been very difficult to**

live away from his family. But by this time, Martin was fourteen years old. (Move Street Scene [6] to top left, and place Cotta House [7] at top right.)

Martin loved to sing. When his teachers found this out, they put him in the choir. (Place Choirboys [8] on the street scene in front of a door.) **After school, the choirboys often went from door to door, singing for their neighbors. Martin** (move Martin Singing [9] to Choirboys), **of course, sang with them. The boys walked through the streets** (move Martin and Choirboys along street), **stopping at one house after another. Kind people gave them food. The boys received bread or sausage. Sometimes, they were even given money.** (Move Martin and Choirboys to Cotta House door.)

Martin and his friends often sang at the door of a very kind lady. Her name was Mrs. Cotta. (Place Mrs. Cotta [10] in front of her door.) **Mrs. Cotta, the wife of a city leader, gave bread or sausage to the boys. Sometimes, she invited the boys to come into her house to eat supper with her family. One evening, as the boys sang, Mrs. Cotta thought, "That one boy has a sweet voice. I would like to have him come and live with us."** (Move Mrs. Cotta next to Martin.) **She said to Martin, "My name is Mrs. Cotta. Will you tell me your name?"**

"My name is Martin Luther," said Martin. "I go to the high school."

"Martin," Mrs. Cotta asked, "would you like to live at my house? You could tutor our son. You could have a room here and eat all your meals with us."

Martin answered excitedly, "Oh yes! I'd like that."

So Martin began to live with the Cotta family while attending school. He spent many happy days living with this Christian family.

After the Story

Discuss the story with the children. During the discussion, stress the role of Baptism in the Christian's life. To guide the discussion, use questions like these:

- **Who was the baby that was born in Eisleben, Germany?** (He was Martin Luther. Have children repeat "Eisleben, Germany" in chorus several times.)
- **Where did Martin's father take him the day after he was born?** (To church) **Why?** (To have Martin baptized)
- **What does God do for us when we are baptized?** (He makes us His very own special children. He forgives our sins. He sends the Holy Spirit to give us faith to trust in Jesus and to live a new life in Him. As Luther later taught in the Small Catechism, "It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.")
- **Where did Martin's father work in Mansfield?** (In a copper mine)
- **Why did his mother go out to gather wood?** (To make a fire for cooking and heating)
- **How did Martin get to school as a little boy?** (He walked or was carried.)
- **What did the high school choirboys often do when Martin was a student in Eisenach?** (They sang from house to house, sometimes receiving gifts of food or money.)
- **In what way was Mrs. Cotta especially kind to Martin Luther?** (She asked him to move into her house with her family.)

Summarize by saying, **We have learned many things about Martin Luther today. In Baptism, the Lord welcomed Martin into His family, giving him faith and the Holy Spirit. Martin grew up and liked to work and study. He had a good voice and liked to sing.**

Note: The scene images work well for iPads, desktops, and interactive whiteboards.